

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

INT-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /193 W

----- 049060

R 201222Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5490

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5136

DEPT PASS CAIRO; BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD; KUWAIT PASS DOHA
AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IN, SA

SUBJECT: INDIA JOINS LIST OF PREFERRED COUNTRIES

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REF NEW DELHI 13096 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: INDIA HAS JOINED LIST OF PREFERRED COUNTRIES AND WILL RECEIVE CRUDE SUPPLY EITHER ON BASIS OF FIRST NINE MONTHS' AVERAGE OR THE LIFTINGS FROM SAUDI ARABIA DURING MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, WHICHEVER HIGHER. SPECIAL DIFFICULTY OF ESSO REFINERY NOTED IN REFTEL STEMS FROM LOW AVERAGE DUE TO LONG PERIOD DURING WHICH REFINERY SHUT DOWN FOR REPAIRS EARLIER THIS YEAR. INDIAN EMBASSY HOPES TO RECEIVE PERMISSION FOR HIGHER LIFINGS FOR ESSO. END SUMMARY.

1. INVOLVED NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO PLACING INDIA ON IST OF THOSE COUNTRIES WITH PREFERRED STATUS HAVE BEEN DETAILED TO US BY INDIAN EMBASSY. ARGUING THAT INDIA HAD LONG RECORD OF PRO-ARAB ACTIONS AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME PREJUDICES OF KING FAISAL OVER ITS ROLE IN BANGLADESH IN 1971. SAG OFFICIALS ALSO DROPPED THEIR DEMAND THAT ISRAELI CONGEN IN BOMBAY BE CLOSED. INDIA IS THIRD COUNTRY TO BE ADDED TO LIST AFTER SPECIAL PLEADING (TURKEY AND BRAZIL WERE ADDED EARLIER).

2. INDIAN EMBASSY HAD TO ARGUE THAT MRS. GANDHI COULD NOT AFFORD CLOSURE OF ISRAELI CONGEN IN BOMBAY. OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE OVER SUCH KOWTOWING TO ARABS. AMB. AHMAD STATED TO BOTH MINPETROLEUM YAMANI AND MINSTATE FOR FONAFF SAQQAF THAT INDIA HAD A CLEAR RECORD ESPOUSING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS UNDER UN RESOLUTION 242. KING HIMSELF AGREED NOVEMBER 10 TO ADDING INDIA TO COUNTRIES EXEMPT FROM CUT IN OFF-TAKE.

3. ESSO REFINERY PROBLEM (REFTEL) STEMS FROM RECORD OF RELATIVELY LOW LIFTINGS DUE TO REFINERY BEING DOWN FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE DURING MUCH OF SUMMER MONTHS. INDIAN EMBASSY IS APPEALING TO DEPUTY MINISTER PETROLEUM FOR EXCEPTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER LEVELS BUT THERE IS NO RPT NO INDICATION THAT THIS WILL BE GRANTED.

4. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GROUND RULES FOR PREFERRED COUNTRIES PERMIT THEM TO CHOOSE EITHER NINE-MONTH AVERAGE OR LEVEL OF SAUDI OIL SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. THIS
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MAY BE USEFUL TO ESSO.
AKINS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EMBARGOES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JIDDA05136
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731123/aaaaaqlsa.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 13096 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA JOINS LIST OF PREFERRED COUNTRIES CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: ENRG, IN, SA, ESSO OIL CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005